IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended)   In a data processing system including a legacy data base management system ~~having~~ <u>which executes</u> a command language coupled to a publically accessible digital data communication network, the improvement comprising:

a. a <u>service request contained within a</u> document formatted in XML (extensible markup language) transferred via said publically accessible digital data communication network to said data base management system; and

b. an Input Definition Table (IDT) responsively coupled to said legacy data base management system which converts said ~~document~~ <u>service request</u> into ~~a format acceptable to~~ <u>said command language for execution by</u> said legacy data base management system.

2.   (Original)   The improvement according to claim 1 further comprising a Document Type Definition (DTD) which defines the format of said document.

3.   (Original)   The improvement according to claim 2 wherein said IDT further comprises a plurality of sequential text lines.

4. (Original) The improvement according to claim 3 wherein at least one of said plurality of sequential text lines provides access constraints.

5. (Original) The improvement according to claim 4 further comprising a repository responsively coupled to said legacy data base management system wherein said IDT is stored within said repository.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

    a. an XML document <u>containing a service request</u>;

    b. a publically accessible digital data communication network;

    c. a data base management system having an input format different from XML <u>which honors said service request by executing a sequence of command language statements</u> responsively coupled to said publically accessible digital data communication network which receives said XML document via said publically accessible digital data communication network; and

    d. an Input Definition Table associated with said XML document which enables conversion of said XML document into said <u>sequence of command language statements</u> ~~input format~~.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising a Document Type Definition (DTD) which defines a format of said XML document.

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8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said data base management system includes a repository and said Input Definition Table is stored within said repository.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said Input Definition Table includes an access constraint.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication system further comprises the Internet.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~interfacing~~ honoring a service request contained within an XML document ~~to~~ by a data base management system by executing a sequence of command language script which having an incompatible input protocol comprising:

    a.   transferring said XML document to said data base management system via a publically accessible digital data communication network;

b. converting said XML document into an XML mapping tree in accordance with a Document Type Definition (DTD) corresponding to said XML document;

c. converting said service request contained within said XML document into said sequence of command language script using an Input Definition Table (IDT); and

d. ~~presenting said parsed XML document to~~ executing said sequence of command language script by said data base management system ~~for processing~~.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11 further comprising the step of saving said IDT for future use.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said IDT is retrieved from storage.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein said IDT further comprises an access constraint.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network further comprises the Internet.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

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a. <u>transmitting</u> means for transmitting an XML document <u>containing a service request for execution of data base management functions</u>;

b. <u>stating</u> means for stating a IDT associated with said document;

c. <u>providing</u> means responsively coupled to said transmitting means for providing data base management functions <u>by</u> <u>executing a sequence of command language statements</u>; and

d. <u>converting</u> means responsively coupled to said providing means for converting said XML document into ~~a format~~ ~~compatible with~~ <u>said sequence of command language statements</u> <u>for execution by</u> said providing means based upon said IDT.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said ~~parsing~~ <u>converting</u> means further comprises means for storing said IDT for future use.

18. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said IDT further comprises an access constraint.

19. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said transmitting means further comprises the Internet.

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20. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 19 further comprising means for defining a format of said XML document.

21. (New) A method of coupling an XML message to a data base management system having an incompatible format comprising:

a. retrieving an existing XML element to source tree from a repository;

b. modifying said existing XML element to source tree in accordance with said XML message; and

c. using said XML element to source tree for converting said XML message to said incompatible format.

22. (New) A method according to claim 21 wherein said XML element to source tree further comprises a plurality of elements and a plurality of attributes.

23. (New) A method according to claim 22 wherein said modifying step further comprises deleting one of said plurality of attributes.

24. (New) A method according to claim 23 wherein said modifying step further comprises adding a new attribute to said plurality of attributes.

25. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein said modifying step further comprises deleting one of said plurality of elements.